

Concerns on deaf education aired at historic senate committee hearing

Concerns that the U.S. Department of Education has been inadequate in its role of educating deaf people were aired March 21 by the Commission on Education of the Deaf during a hearing before the Senate Labor and Human Resources Subcommittee on the Handicapped.

In addition to providing a forum to call attention to what one commission source called "our overall concern that the education of deaf people in the United States is unsatisfactory," the hearing was "a very, very, moving occasion," according to Sue Ellis, Gallaudet's director of Congressional Relations.

The fact that sign language was used in opening remarks as a primary means of communication—by subcommittee Chairman Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), who has a deaf brother; Sen. Paul Simon (D-Ill.); Sen. Rudy Boschwitz (R-Minn.); and Gallaudet's first deaf president, Dr. King Jordan, marked "an extraordinary exchange," Ellis said.

Jordan applauded the foresight of Congress in establishing the commission and called the hearing "an historic occasion, for it brings together those people who have worked diligently to be responsive to a national and international need."

"In general, the recommendations of the commission speak to positive ways in which our field may be improved and deaf constituencies served in better ways," Jordan said at the hearing. "In particular, the commission has identified ways in which the federal govern-

ment can enhance its role in the education of deaf people."

He noted that the Board of Trustees is acting on a commission recommendation to increase board representation of deaf people.

But Jordan expressed reservations about other recommendations related to Gallaudet. "We see some of them as inappropriately limiting our ability to play a leadership and global role in serving deaf people," he said. "We must, therefore, disagree with those having to do with research, international student enrollment . . . admission of hearing students, and the mission of our two national demonstration schools."

The commission recommended establishing a National Institute of Deaf Research from Gallaudet's budget, increasing tuition for foreign students and limiting their enrollment to 10 percent of the University's total, not admitting hearing students, and increasing enrollment of low-functioning deaf students at MSSD and KDES.

A group at Gallaudet has started work on a detailed analysis and response to each set of recommendations, Jordan said. The report must be filed by April 21.

Another hearing was scheduled for March 30 before the House Subcommittee on Select Education.

The subcommittee plans to obtain more input before reaching a conclusion on whether legislation will be introduced to implement the recommended changes, according to Senate subcommittee legislative assistant Katy Beh.

LifeLink members discuss AIDS at Gallaudet forum

At an AIDS forum held on campus March 24, three people with AIDS (PWAs) shared their experiences and answered questions about having AIDS, helping others, and living their lives as fully as possible.

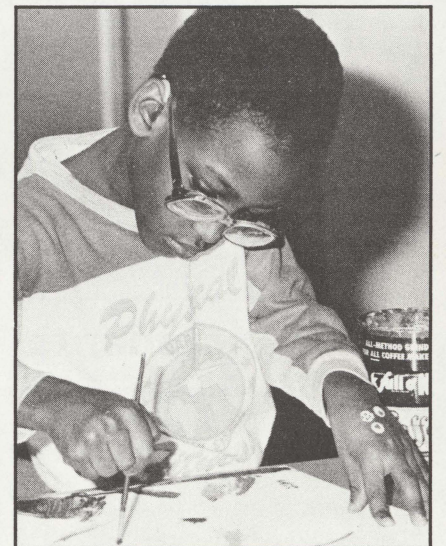
"At a point, all you can say is, 'I want more life,'" said James McLerin. "You don't realize how valuable it is until you're stricken."

McLerin, Larry Ellis, and Bill Travis are all members of LifeLink, the D.C. chapter of the National Association of People with AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). The organization is active in the areas of advocacy, AIDS education, and helping PWAs receive social services entitlements such as Social Security disability income.

Ellis, who has pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP), told the group he went through a period of becoming slowly ill. "Having AIDS, I can get quite sick any time and die very quickly," he said, explaining that PWAs die from opportunistic infections that occur when the body's immune system breaks down.

When he learned he had AIDS, it caused tremendous depression, said Ellis. "But now I'm pretty well adjusted," he said. "I don't have a chip on my shoulder about having AIDS."

Although his family has been support-



Budding KDES artists like Sean Moore (left) and Taha MacCree will soon have a gallery at the school to display their works, thanks to grants from Polaroid and McDonald's.

Grants bring art gallery to Kendall

A sophisticated art gallery will be built at KDES this spring to showcase the talents of young hearing impaired artists around the world.

Thanks to grants from McDonald's and the Polaroid Corporation, Kendall Gallery will not only provide KDES students a permanent place to display their work but will be a place for workshops and visiting lecturers as well.

Photographs, paintings, videos, sculptures, and mixed media works by deaf children ages 6-14 from Argentina as well as KDES are expected to be featured at the grand opening of the gallery.

The \$9,000 project will be built by

the Design and Construction unit of Gallaudet's Physical Plant.

"It will be a stepping-off point to do just about anything we want," said KDES art instructor Phillip Bogdan.

"We're also going to try to make this a professional art gallery where students will learn professional techniques," Bogdan said. "They will conceptualize and create art as well as do the matting and put up the exhibits."

The gallery will be built on the third floor of Kendall in a 50-yard area of what is now a hallway, Bogdan said.

Marianne Jordan, associate director for Corporate and Foundation Relations in Gallaudet's Development Office, said that grant applications were submitted to the two corporations over a year ago. Six months later Polaroid responded by sending a \$2,000 check, and in early March McDonald's followed suit by contacting the University with word that it would award the remaining \$7,000 needed for the project.

ive, Ellis noted that he had not been well treated by many people, which spurred him into a more active role to help educate people about AIDS.

Travis, who is 24, was diagnosed

continued on page 2

Charter activities slated for April 9

A variety of activities sponsored by the Office of Alumni Relations and Advancement are planned for Saturday, April 9, to celebrate Charter Day at Gallaudet.

The annual event commemorates the signing of Gallaudet's charter on April 8, 1864, by President Abraham Lincoln, giving the institution authority to award liberal arts degrees to deaf students.

The day will begin with an exhibit of the watercolors of David E. Mudgett, '29, in the Ely Center Art Gallery. The exhibit will be open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and will continue through April 15. Coffee and danish will be

continued on page 2



Bill Travis (left) and James McLerin spoke at Gallaudet recently about their experiences with AIDS. At right is interpreter Vivian Berry.

Speakers share AIDS experiences

continued from page 1

two years ago as having both Burkett's lymphoma, a rare type of cancer, and AIDS. "I was given two weeks to live, but I'm still here," he said.

Attributing his survival for this long to his mental attitude, Travis said he has made a commitment to helping others. He has done a public service announcement for television and is active in AIDS education.

Travis said his mother has been very supportive, but other relatives have not been as accepting. One uncle told him, "You're going to die anyway. Why can't you just be quiet? We're the ones who have to live with this." And his father, a Baptist minister, has little contact with his son. "He's dealing with society's prejudice, particularly Baptist prejudice," Travis explained.

McLerin, who said his purpose in coming to Gallaudet was to help people understand "how difficult it is to be in the situation we are all in," observed

that, unlike his colleagues, he had no idea that AIDS could happen to him.

"Two years ago, I thought AIDS only happened to gay, white males," he said. "I'm not gay, not white." McLerin said he has no idea how he got AIDS, but noted that he did shoot drugs when he was in Vietnam. "But I've been clean now for about 12 years."

Because he had AIDS, McLerin lost his job, his insurance, his apartment, "and most of the people who called themselves my friends." His mother, sister, and one friend stuck by him, though, and now, he said, "people are beginning to understand what I'm going through. They're beginning to understand their own fears."

McLerin noted that others run little risk of getting AIDS from him, but, because of his impaired immune system, he must continually be alert to other people who could pass infections to him.

Another thing people with AIDS must deal with is the expense of the illness. "It's impossible for a PWA to survive," said McLerin, who is in the hospital at least once a month. The cost alone of AZT, a drug taken to slow the breakdown of the immune system, is about \$830 for a month's supply.

Attitudes about people with AIDS have changed, the three men said. "Two years ago, people were afraid to come in the same room with me," said McLerin. "This would not happen today."

Added Travis, "Five years from now, I hope everyone will be well informed about HIV and AIDS."

University given record donation

Gallaudet University recently received the largest donation from a private individual in its 124-year history.

A bequest in the amount of \$471,630 was given to the University on Feb. 19 from the estate of Clara Franziska Mertens of Westport, Conn. In her will, Mertens directed that the gift be made in memory of professor Adam Politzer.

Dr. Politzer, a Hungarian physician and otologist who died in 1920, is credited with making important advances in the knowledge of the anatomy and pathology of the ear.

Mertens had requested that the funds be used to support research by the Gallaudet Research Institute "related to deaf people having a secondary handicap which may be a visual or emotional disturbance."

To honor this request, Gallaudet has established the "Professor Adam Politzer Memorial Fund" within the University's Research Institute. The fund has been added to Gallaudet's permanent endowment.

Mertens' gift is eligible for matching funds through the Federal Endowment Program.

"By including us in her will, Mrs. Mertens has ensured substantial and perpetual support for the important work of the Gallaudet Research Institute," said Jane Kolson, director of the Development Office.

Clara Mertens was married to Andre Mertens, a renowned international supporter of orchestral music who, at the time of his death in 1963, was chairman of the board of the Columbia Artists Management in New York.

"We are very grateful for Clara Mertens' magnificent gift," Kolson said, "especially since neither she or Professor Politzer had any direct connection to Gallaudet in their lifetimes."



Painter Lawrence Daniels (left) and groundskeeper Joe Shell retired April 1 after working for Gallaudet 25 and 32 years, respectively. Both men were honored at a ceremony on March 18.

Gallaudet charter signing celebrated

continued from page 1

served from 9-11 a.m. on April 9.

The afternoon will feature two seminars in the Merrill Learning Center, Room LN-11. The first, "Deaf Culture: Prestige and Pride," will be presented from 1-3 p.m. by M.J. Bienvenu, '74, co-director of The Bicultural Center. The center was recently established in Maryland to provide training and workshops, and to disseminate materials related to deaf culture.

"AIDS: Questions and Answers" will be presented from 3:30-5 p.m. by Holly Bell, acting director of the Student Health Service and chairwoman of the AIDS Committee at Gallaudet. The Merrill Learning Center will also feature a display about AIDS.

The annual Charter Day banquet and awards program will begin at 5:30 p.m. in "Ole Jim." Guest speaker will be Dr. Robert Panara, '45, professor emeritus

of English and drama at the National Technical Institute of the Deaf.

The Laurent Clerc Cultural Fund and Outstanding Young Alumnus awards will be presented during the banquet. Special guests will be the Board of Directors of the Gallaudet University Alumni Association, who will be meeting on April 8.

For further information, contact Mary Anne Pugin, coordinator of alumni outreach, x5061 TDD.

Classified Ads

FOR SALE: Oak table, 1930s, pub-style bottom, \$200/BO or trade. Call Faith, x5115 or 332-1562 (V).

FOR SALE: Two white leather armchairs, \$75 each; 9-in. computer monitor, \$25; 45-cps daisy wheel printer, \$100. Call Gene at home, 986-0308 (TDD).

FOR SALE: Apple IIE computer, 128K, duo disks, Appleworks program and other software, \$750. Call Nancy, 5242 (TDD) afternoons or 350-0528 after 7 p.m.

WANTED: Female/male as 3rd roommate for furnished townhouse in Springfield, Va., quiet, wooded community, near shopping, Rts. 395/95 and 495, express bus to Pentagon stops at community entrance, must provide BR furniture, \$325/mo. plus util., call 942-0530 in Md., 569-5638 in Va., or Dr. Kaplan, x5317.

FOR SALE: Complete Apple II GS/TDD system inc. 3 disk drives; RGB/TV monitor; software valued at \$1,000; TDD/1200 ASC II modem; video digitizer w/video camera; 1 megabyte ram; and TDD answer software; \$1,999 for all. Leave message for Norman Williams, x5055 (TDD).

FOR SALE: One-way plane ticket to any west coast city, must fly before May 25, \$150/BO. Call 577-2117 (TDD) after 5 p.m.

FOR RENT: Room in house in Beltsville, Md., prefer female nonsmoker, \$250/mo. inc. util. and access to rest of house. Call Polly or Mary, x5356 (TDD) or 937-6122 (V/TDD) eves.

FOR SALE: Kenmore casement window air conditioner, 10.5 BTUs, w/automatic thermostat, \$150. Call x5554 or 587-9199 (V) eves.

Job Openings

Some of the advertised positions may already be filled. The list below includes only new staff and faculty openings and does not represent all jobs available. To get a recorded message describing the complete list, call x5358 or x5359 (TDD).

OFFICE SERVICES SUPERVISOR: Student Affairs

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR: MSSD Theatre THREE TENURE-TRACK FACULTY POSITIONS: Department of Communication Arts

TEMPORARY INSTRUCTOR/ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH: English Department



Published each Monday for the staff and faculty of Gallaudet University by the Department of Publications and Production.

Editor

Vickie Walter

Editorial Staff

Todd Byrd

Lynne McConnell

Photography

Chun Louie

Johnston Grindstaff

Kelly Butterworth

Desktop Production

Marie Emmanuel



Gallaudet University is an equal opportunity employer/educational institution. Programs and services offered by Gallaudet receive substantial financial support from the U.S. Department of Education.